

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 123685

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ORIGIN OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 L-03 OES-03 COME-00

EB-07 DLOS-03 CG-00 DOTE-00 H-02 SS-15 NSC-05 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

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EA/J:RDEMING

EA/RDC:KWEAVER

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R 281746Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, JA, TW

SUBJECT: FOREIGN FISHING VESSELS FLYING FLAGS OF CONVEN-
IENCE

1. US HAS CONCLUDED SERIES OF BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL
AGREEMENTS AND TREATIES WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES, I.E.,
JAPAN, USSR AND SOUTH KOREA, CONDUCTING FISHING OPERATIONS
OFF US PACIFIC COAST. THESE AGREEMENTS ARE DESIGNED TO
PROTECT US INTEREST IN ITS OFFSHORE FISHERY RESOURCES,
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PAGE 02 STATE 123685

MANY OF WHICH HAVE BEEN OVERFISHED BY FOREIGN COUNTRIES
AND TO CONTROL THEIR FISHING ACTIVITIES AT REASONABLE
LEVELS. FOR EXAMPLE, UNDER BILATERAL AGREEMENTS RE-
NEGOTIATED WITH JAPAN IN DECEMBER 1974, US REDUCED JAPAN'S

QUOTA IN THE EASTERN BERING SEA FOR POLLOCK, WHICH CONSTITUTES THE MOST IMPORTANT TARGET SPECIES FOR JAPAN, BY NEARLY 30 PERCENT SINCE THERE WAS CLEAR SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE THAT THIS RESOURCE IS PRESENTLY OVEREXPLOITED.

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2. DEPARTMENT HAS RECENTLY ACQUIRED INFORMATION IN SEVERAL CASES WHICH LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT SOME NATIONALS OF COUNTRIES WITH WHOM WE HAVE AGREEMENTS MAY BE CONDUCTING FISHING OPERATIONS UNDER FLAGS OF CONVENIENCE. TO THE EXTENT THAT SUCH PRACTICES REPRESENT AN ATTEMPT TO CIRCUMVENT EXISTING CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT REGIMES, WE BELIEVE THEY SHOULD BE DISCOURAGED.

3. DEPARTMENT IS AWARE THAT CERTAIN SEGMENTS IN JAPANESE FISHING INDUSTRY HAVE BEEN LOOKING INTO POSSIBLE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN TAIWAN BECAUSE OF LOWER LABOR COSTS THERE. INVESTING IN CHINESE DISTANT WATER TRAWL FISHERY WOULD PROVIDE JAPANESE WITH ACCESS TO RESOURCES IN WATERS OF NORTH PACIFIC ADJACENT TO US COAST WITHOUT VESSELS BEING LEGALLY SUBJECTED TO CATCH LIMITATIONS THAT MAY HAVE BEEN AGREED ON BETWEEN US AND JAPAN.

4. SUCH A DEVELOPMENT NOW APPEARS TO BE BEFORE US. EARLY THIS YEAR A TRAWLER IDENTIFIED AS TAI CHANG NO. 1, FLYING ROC FLAG, FISHED IN EASTERN BERING SEA. VESSEL REPORTEDLY OWNED BY TAI CHANG CORPORATION, SEC 1 CHUNGSON N. ROAD, TAIPEI. CREW SAID TO HAVE CONSISTED OF 23 JAPANESE AND 10 CHINESE. JAPANESE NATIONAL IDENTIFIED AS T. ABE ACTUALLY COMMANDED VESSEL AND SERVED CONCURRENTLY AS FISHING MASTER. CHINESE CAPTAIN IDENTIFIED AS K.S. CHANG APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN UNDER SUPERVISION OF ABE.

5. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT JAPANESE CREW ARE TRAINING CHINESE IN OPERATION OF TRAWLER SOLD TO TAIWAN. AT THE SAME TIME, THIS MAY ALSO MARK BEGINNING OF INCREASED JAPANESE INVESTMENT IN CHINESE DISTANT WATER FISHERY, DESIGNED IN PART TO CIRCUMVENT INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 123685

TIONARRANGEMENTS IN NORTH PACIFIC AND IT SHOULD THEREFORE BE MONITORED CLOSELY. SHOULD A SUBSTANTIAL CHINESE FISHING EFFORT DEVELOP OFF OUR WEST COAST WE WOULD NEED TO CONSIDER THE NECESSITY OF CONCLUDING AN AGREEMENT WITH TAIWAN AIMED AT REGULATING THAT EFFORT.

6. FOR TAIPEI: REQUEST INFORMATION ON INVOLVEMENT OF JAPANESE CAPITAL IN TAI CHANG CORPORATION, WHEN COMPANY ESTABLISHED, NAME OF CHINESE AND JAPANESE PARTICIPANTS IN VENTURE, ETC. IN ADDITION, INFORMATION REQUESTED ALSO ON FISHING SUCCESS OF TRAWLER IN EASTERN BERING SEA, COMPOSITION OF CATCH AND CATCH QUANTITY, MARKET OUTLETS

AND FUTURE OPERATIONAL PLANS.

7. FOR TOKYO: EMBASSY MAY RECALL THAT JAPANESE WERE INVOLVED SOME SIX YEARS AGO IN TRAINING OF SOUTH KOREANS TO FISH FOR SALMON IN NORTH PACIFIC. THIS EVENTUALLY CULMINATED IN SERIOUS PROBLEMS BETWEEN SOUTH KOREA AND US. AS REPORTED IN PARA 3 ABOVE, DEPARTMENT HAS SOME REASON TO BELIEVE THAT JAPANESE INVESTMENT IN CHINESE DISTANT WATER FISHERY MAY REPRESENT ATTEMPT TO CIRCUMVENT EXISTING MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL CONSERVATION ARRANGEMENTS IN NORTH PACIFIC. FORMER REGIONAL FISHERIES ATTACHE NAKATSU WAS APPROACHED IN MID-1974 ON AT LEAST

TWO OCCASIONS BY INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES FOR INFORMATION REGARDING EXISTENCE ANY BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN US AND TAIWAN. REPLY WAS NEGATIVE. SLIGHTLY OVER SIX MONTHS LATER, WE FIND CHINESE VESSEL WITH JAPANESE CREW FISHING OFF US COAST. IN VIEW OF ABOVE BACKGROUND, WE REQUEST POST CALL MATTER TO ATTENTION OF GOJ.

8. POST MAY INDICATE THAT US BELIEVES THAT JAPANESE INVESTMENT IN CHINESE DISTANT WATER TRAWL FISHERY, TO THE EXTENT THAT CHINESE VESSELS OPERATE IN WATERS ADJACENT TO US COAST WHERE RESOURCES CURRENTLY ARE OVERFISHED AT NEAR MAXIMUM LEVELS, WOULD NOT BE IN LONG-TERM INTEREST OF JAPAN. NEW OCEAN REGIME PRESENTLY UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION IN LAW OF THE SEA, AS WELL AS IN US CONGRESS, PROVIDES FOR EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION OVER FISHERIES BY THE COASTAL STATE IN ITS 200-MILE ZONE.
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PAGE 04 STATE 123685

UNDER SUCH A REGIME, US WILL DETERMINE ALLOCATION TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES FOR THAT PORTION OF RESOURCE NOT FULLY UTILIZED BY US FISHERMEN. THIS SIMPLY MEANS THAT SHARE OF EACH FOREIGN COUNTRY FISHING OFF US WILL BE LESS IF THERE ARE MORE COUNTRIES FISHING OFF US COAST.

9. PLEASE EXPRESS TO GOJ WE SINCERELY HOPE JAPANESE INVESTMENTS IN TAIWAN DO NOT REPRESENT ATTEMPT ON PART OF JAPANESE INDUSTRY TO CIRCUMVENT AGREEMENTS CONCLUDED BETWEEN US AND JAPAN. DEPARTMENT WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED TO KNOW IF THERE ARE ANY PROVISIONS IN GOJ LAW WHICH WOULD PROHIBIT JAPANESE NATIONALS FROM SERVING ON A THIRD COUNTRY VESSEL WHICH, IF IT WERE JAPANESE, WOULD BE FISHING IN VIOLATION OF INPFC REGULATIONS OR OUR BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH JAPAN. INGERSOLL

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